

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 4, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

The Meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and re-broadcast Thursday, December 5, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Council members Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Cagle, Jordan, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting for personnel matters and potential litigation

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT - offered and none given

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, November 13, 2019. (0110-19)

b)amending and restating the Fee Resolution to include: "Per Submission" language added to Engineering and Environmental Reviews; No Stormwater or Erosion Control Review language deleted; Erosion and Sedimentation Plan Review language and fee deleted; CPR Training fee increased and student book added; Heart Saver First Aid and CPR with AED fee increased and student book added; BLS Healthcare provider CPR with AED student book added; First Aid and CPR student book deleted under Optional Items; BLS provider student book deleted under Optional Items; Altoona Parking Authority fees increased; Streets and Improved Right-of-Way Permit-General Street Opening/Disturbance fee increased; Wireless Communications Facility – language and Review Fee added, Annual Fee added and reference to 3rd Party Review Fee added. (0111-19)

c)awarding the Request for Proposal for Independent Auditing Services for the City of Altoona for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021, including an audit of the Federal Housing and Community Development Funds, to Young, Oakes, Brown and Company of Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. amending the 2018 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) changing the program description to include assisting persons with disabilities for homeowners and renters. (0112-19)

d)approving the City Council Meeting date of January 8, 2020, in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code of the City of Altoona. (0113-19)

e) approving the City Council Meeting date of January 8, 2020, in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code of the City of Altoona. (0114-19)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items and passed 7 to 0 with all present

ORDINANCES

Adoption - Councilman Cagle

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, IN THE COUNTY OF BLAIR, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, DURING THE YEAR 2020. (2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE) (ORD. NO. 5756)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.
Introduction – Councilman Cagle
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh
Second – Councilwoman Jordan
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Adoption - Councilman Kelley

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" BY AMENDING ARTICLE VIII THEREOF ENTITLED, "EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS TAX", TO LEVY A TAX ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS OF RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AT THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR 2020: ONE PERCENT (1%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT (ACT 511); TWO TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.20%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND OPTIONAL PLANS LAW; AND FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) TO DEFRAY COSTS RELATED TO THE PENSION PLANS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT (ACT 205). IN ADDITION, SAID ORDINANCE WILL LEVY A TAX ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS OF CERTAIN NONRESIDENTS WHO WORK IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA AT THE FOLLOWING RATES: ONE PERCENT (1%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE

PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT (ACT 511); AND FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) TO DEFRAY COSTS RELATED TO THE PENSION PLANS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT (ACT 205). SAID ORDINANCE WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE TAX RETURNS; REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO WITHHOLD AND REMIT TAX; CONTAINS DEFINITIONS, REFERENCES APPLICABLE STATUTES, DESIGNATES A TAX COLLECTOR, ESTABLISHES INTEREST, PENALTIES, COSTS AND FINES, PROVIDES FOR SEVERABILITY, A PURPOSE AND ESTABLISHES AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5757)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – Councilman Kelley

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Kelley

Second – Councilman Neugebauer

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Authorities/boards/commissions - tabled until January 8th

Councilman Cagle and Councilman Neugebauer were recognized for their service to the City with plaques and keys to the City

Councilman Neugebauer stated he wanted to take the opportunity to reflect upon the past ten years and thanked the Mayor and current Council, former Mayor Bill Schirf, former Councilman Mark Geis, former Councilman Michael Haire, the current and former City Department Heads and all City Employees including Fire, Police and others; Councilman Neugebauer thanked Police Chief Freehling and Fire Chief Hileman; Councilman Neugebauer thanked City Solicitor Dan Stants and former City Solicitor Larry Clapper, for giving Council the proper advice to make correct decisions to move the City forward; Councilman Neugebauer stated he worked under two previous City Managers as well as the current Interim City Manager, Peter Marshall; Councilman Neugebauer stated in the present form of government the role of the City Manager is vital to the success of City government; Councilman Neugebauer thanked Peter Marshall for stepping in twice when needed most; Councilman Neugebauer gave a special thank you to two special people who helped him complete his ten years on City Council, Linda Rickens Schellhammer, City Clerk and Kim Carrieri, Executive Assistant and Deputy City Clerk stating they do a yeoman's job at City Hall and beyond and have been very important to him; the two events that were defining times during Councilman Neugebauer's tenure were the wisdom of Mayor and Council to enter into Act 47 before reaching a critical budget time and then, with the help of Council, staff, all employees and all of the advisors, the City was able to come out of Act 47, which is something many cities have not been able to do; Councilman Neugebauer stated the City is better off now than before they entered;

Councilman Neugebauer stated the second defining moment was the City taking over the Altoona Water Authority in a positive manner, and receiving the revenue from that acquisition; finally, Councilman Neugebauer stated that in his message that he left at his first inauguration many years ago, he thanked his Mother, who was 91 years old at that time, and had worked at City Hall for 40 years; Councilman Neugebauer stated his Mother told him that he did not want him to run because she didn't want him to be associated with "those people"; Councilman Neugebauer also thanked his Campaign Manager, with whom he sleeps, and he thanked all of his former fifth grade students for voting for him; Councilman Neugebauer stated he received a big round of applause because his speech was so short and sweet; Councilman Neugebauer stated that it has been a good ride and now it's onto new challenges.

Councilman Cagle stated he did not prepare written words like Councilman Neugebauer but stated this would be the end of his twelfth year on Council and it has been one of the joys of his life and one of the best experiences, working with qualified staff, which has proven itself over and over; Councilman Cagle stated staff should be proud of what they do; Councilman Cagle stated we have the top Fire Department and that he was always so proud of them and of the three minute response time and of the department that cares for its citizens and that takes their job more seriously than any fire department that exists; Councilman Cagle stated the City has the bravest Altoona Police Officers who are not afraid to do what it takes to get the job done; Councilman Cagle stated the residents may not really understand what the Altoona Police do and the things that they keep everyone away from; Public Works and the Highway Department has a huge task and they always do an excellent job of maintaining our roads and keeping the residents safe; Councilman Cagle stated it has been humbling and an honor and a privilege to be a part of what former Councilman Mark Geis used to call an oversight board or committee, because it is really the employees that make things happen; Councilman Cagle thanked staff and all City employees and asked that his thanks and congratulations be passed along; Councilman Cagle stated he had a positive experience, especially on the Central Blair Recreation Commission and the diversity and offerings that exist; it was also a pleasure to serve with those on the IRC Board; Councilman Cagle stated he is excited about the future of Altoona; twelve years ago it was by some, a bleak outlook; Councilman Cagle said the future is bright for the City with a lot of potential and growth in the City of Altoona for both residents and businesses and downtown will continue to transform; Altoona will be a destination City in PA; Councilman Cagle stated he looks forward to settling back into being a member of the taxpayer base and cheering the City on, helping in any way he can from that position; Councilman Cagle stated it was an honor to serve with so many over the years, stating the best intentions of the City and the residents was always a priority and taken seriously, wishing the new members of Council the best in carrying on the tradition; Councilman Cagle thanked Bill Kibler for covering the meetings and for good discussions; Councilman Cagle stated he will cherish all of these memories for the rest of his life.

Councilman Butterbaugh stated it has been a great year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Jordan wished everybody a Happy Holiday.

Mayor Pacifico reminded everyone of the Spirit of Christmas Parade in Downtown Altoona on Thursday, December 5th at 6 p.m.

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:21 p.m.